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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 001243

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR  
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: PA INTERIOR MINISTER FIRES JENIN  
SECURITY CHIEFS AFTER CONFRONTATION WITH AL-AQSA BRIGADES;  
ONE PALESTINIAN ARRESTED IN WEST BANK; GAZA QUIET MARCH 2,  
2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: Palestinian Authority (PA) Interior Minister Nasir Yusif replaced all the PA security chiefs and deputies in Jenin during a March 1 visit to inspect the overall security situation in the city. The dismissals followed a confrontation that included a brief exchange of gunfire between members of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in Jenin and PA security officers. Unidentified individuals threw a firebomb at an Israeli bus near Nablus March 1, but no injuries were reported. The IDF entered Yatta village south of Hebron and arrested a PIJ activist on March 1. Gaza was reportedly quiet. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injury: Nil.

(SBU) ARRESTS/SECURITY:

-- Arrest: The IDF on March 1 entered Yatta village south of Hebron and arrested a Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) activist. The IDF withdrew from the village following the arrest.

-- Security Incident: Unknown individuals on March 1 threw a firebomb at an Israeli bus near the settlement of Elon More near Nablus. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

-- Clashes: Israeli settlers from the settlement of Itamar on March 1 attacked a number of Palestinian laborers, forcing the laborers to abandon a construction site. There were no injuries reported from this incident.

(SBU) DEMOLITIONS/CONFISCATIONS

-- Israeli bulldozers on March 1 destroyed 10 shacks used by Palestinian vendors in the northern Jordan Valley villages of Bardala and Ein el-Beida.

-- The IDF on March 1 posted notices in the Palestinian village of Wadi Fukin, near Bethlehem, that it planned to demolish three water wells and a house there.

-- Israeli bulldozers on March 1 uprooted olive trees in the Palestinian villages of Kufur Thulth and Masha in order to clear land for the building of a section of the separation barrier.

(SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- Palestinian Authority (PA) Interior Minister Nasir Yusif replaced all the PA security chiefs and deputies in Jenin during a March 1 visit to inspect the overall security situation in the city. The dismissals followed a confrontation that included a brief exchange of gunfire between members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in Jenin and PA security officers. Al-Aqsa reportedly objected to Yusif's visit to Jenin because the Interior Minister had failed to coordinate the visit with the local al-Aqsa commander, Zakaria Zubaydah. Yusif and Zubaydah later held private discussions, after which Zubaydah expressed his support for the Interior Minister and his efforts to bring security to the city.

-- PA security advisor Jibril Rajoub denied Palestinian press reports that he is planning to travel to Syria to meet with leaders of Hamas and PIJ. He added that a meeting with Palestinian factions is tentatively set for March 15 in

Cairo.

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Gaza  
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(SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.  
-- Injuries: Nil.  
-- Mortars/Rockets: Nil.  
-- Shootings: Nil.  
-- Explosions: Nil.

(SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: According to UNRWA, the IDF began a minor incursion into the Erez Industrial Zone area March 2, continuing ongoing construction work around Erez.

(SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open March with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Abu Khouli was open only for public transportation; no private vehicles are allowed to cross.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians March 1 and 950 laborers and 120 merchants entered Israel March 1.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open March 1 and 350 Palestinians entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers March 2, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operating slowly March 2.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures March 12.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed March 2. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except for males between the ages of 16-35.

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